

# Focus on Fifth

## Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

April 15, 2013

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

### Important Dates

April 15	American Revolution Unit Assessment
April 19-20	Rockin' Lock In
April 23	Spelling Bee Final Round
April 26	Institute day (no school)

Dear Families,

### Donations for PADS

We still need donations! Please purchase a few items from the list below and send them in with your students so that we can help people in need.

white socks	blankets	body lotion (travel size)
washcloths	cough drops	sunscreen (travel size)
hand towels	shaving cream	shampoo & conditioner (travel size)
toothbrushes	combs	deodorant
toothpaste	lip balm	q-tips
mouthwash	water bottle containers	white t-shirts (large & extra large)

We will also be accepting food or fund donations for the OPRF Food Pantry. Thanks for your help!

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### SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

**Art** - This week we will be painting on the the final details onto our kiln-fired presidents. Look for photos on the artblog. We are beginning a drawing project where we will learn how to emphasis the focal point or center of interest in our artwork through leading lines and contrast. Also, for students attending the lock-in, we will be painting the 5th grade mural during the lock-in. Please have your student bring painting clothes or a smock.

[www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com)

**Music** - [Check out the website!](#) We are continuing our big Theme and Variations project this week. Students will learn to play the theme of the assignment on the recorder and then create their own variations by changing different musical aspects of the piece. Each student will have their own packet for this assignment. They will work on making one variation by themselves. I will make suggestions on this variation by Wednesday and then allow them to work with me on Friday at 11:30 to improve their assignment. They may also take the assignment home to make corrections and bring it back by Friday. More details about the whole assignment will be available on the music website this week.

**Chorus** - The Wolves game is Sunday March 17th! Details will be sent home this week about where we are meeting and at what time. If you can give a ride, please email [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org). We will be singing "Don't Stop Believing" at the game.

Click here for the karaoke track:

[Don't Stop Believing Audio](#)

And here for the lyrics"

[Don't Stop Lyrics](#)

**Spanish** - Students have completed all assessments from the last story about Juan the bombero and watched recordings of their skits. They will be starting a new story this week.

<http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

**Library** - There is still one more chance to participate in Reading Olympics this year, and that is with the EXTREME competition! This competition will take place on Wednesday, April 18th at Holmes and will feature all 18 books. In order to compete, you must have been in either the spring or the fall competition (or both). The district Extreme competition is Tuesday, April 23 and will be all day at the Oak Park Public Library.

In other library news, we're continuing to read RJ Palacio's *Wonder* during library time. Take a look at the Wonder website for information about this amazing novel, <http://choosekind.tumblr.com/> Choose kind! For more on library happenings, please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>).

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.

### **Reading/Literature**

This week, we will continue to focus on comparing and contrasting books within the same genre. We will be looking at how different authors approach writing about similar topics and themes. Students will be responsible for finding similarities and differences between two stories and writing about how the authors develop the topic and theme.

### **Language Arts**

During the month of April, students will learn how to form an argument. They will take on the role of either a patriot or loyalist during the American Revolution, write an essay arguing their position, and then participate in a debate within the classroom.

### **Math**

We will complete our algebra concepts this week and our unit test will be this Thursday. The unit test will cover algebraic expressions, in/out tables, plotting coordinates, pan balance problems, and area and circumference of circles. We will review in class on Tuesday. On Wednesday, students will take the IAAT. This test is a measure of algebra readiness and is one of the measures that Brooks will use in determining math placement for next year. This is a timed test and students may use calculators, so please remind your child to bring his/her calculator to school.

### **Science**

This week, we will focus on the circulatory system. Students will learn the main components of the system and will complete a diagram of the heart. On Thursday, students will dissect a heart, with help from our parent volunteers. We will have a short quiz on Friday.

### **Social Studies**

Students took the **American Revolution Unit Assessment** today (Monday). The rest of the week we will look at how our founders began building a new nation. Students will learn the Bill of Rights, as well as the growth of our nation (i.e. westward movement, The Louisiana Purchase).

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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